

Atty. Docket No. Q61360
PATENT APPLICATION

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 09/692,043

REMARKS

Claims 2, 9, 12, 15 and 16 are herein cancelled. Claims 17 - 22 are herein added.

Accordingly, claims 1, 3 - 8, 10 - 11, 13 - 14, and 17 - 22 are presently pending.

The Examiner is thanked for noting the allowable subject matter of claims 2, 4, 9, 12 and 15. In reference to the noted allowable subject matter, the aforementioned claims are herein cancelled, and the allowable subject matter of cancelled claims 2, 9, 12 and 15 is respectively herein incorporated into independent claims 1, 8, 11 and 7 (while claim 16 also includes allowable subject matter, it is the same subject matter of claim 15 and is therefore not redundantly claimed).

New independent claims 17, 21 and 22 are herein added. Applicant asserts that such claims are patentable at least because they include the noted allowable subject matter of at least one of former claims 2 or 4.

Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 7, 8, 11, 17, 21 and 22 are patentable at least by virtue of inclusion of subject matter noted by the Examiner to be allowable. Further, all dependent claims are asserted as patentable at least by virtue of dependency upon one of the aforementioned independent claims.

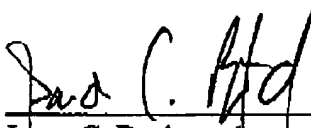
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE


23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: June 17, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office this 17th day of June, 2004.



Mariann Tam